



## Message From Acting Director William P. Robertson

The first official day of winter is December 21, but try telling that to Mother Nature. To date, Illinois has experienced two winter storms. On November 14-15, Winter Storm Avery dumped several inches of accumulating snow on many parts of our state, canceling schools, events and put our around-the-clock state resources to work. On Sunday, November 25, as many people were concluding their Thanksgiving holiday travels, another winter storm took aim at northern Illinois knocking out power and reducing traffic to a snarl.

Being unprepared for winter weather is not only inconvenient, it is dangerous. Being prepared for winter weather does not have to cost a lot of money or take a lot of time. It could be as simple as making sure your vehicle is in good winter driving condition, adding a winter survival kit to your car or changing your furnace filter. What is important is that you act now, to prepare your family, home and vehicles for everything from a dusting of snow to a blistering winter storm.



With the help of the National Weather Service, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) has developed a Winter Weather Preparedness Guide to help you on the path of preparedness. This guide provides information about winter travel safety, winter weather terminology and important tips on how to prepare your home and vehicle for the long winter months ahead. A link to this guide can be found on the IEMA website, [www.illinois.gov/iema](http://www.illinois.gov/iema).

Here are some more helpful tips to consider this winter:

- When traveling on ice or snow covered roads, leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you. This is especially important when approaching snow plows.
- During winter storms or when the temperatures drop to dangerously low temperatures, remember to check in on your neighbors.
- Don't forget your pets. Bring them indoors and make sure they have a warm, dry place with plenty of food and water.
- Shoveling heavy, wet snow can put a big strain on your heart. Stay hydrated and take frequent breaks.
- Wear layers to prevent frostbite. Adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops.
- Use caution when outside for work or play. Each year, emergency rooms in the U.S. treat thousands of injuries related to sledding, ice skating and shoveling.

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# State of Preparedness: 2018 Seismic Succor

The goal of our agency is to ensure that Illinois is safe, secure and resilient against all hazards. However, planning and training is essential to any organization's ability to establish a state of readiness to respond to extreme events that could affect a community.

Approximately 80 participants from local, state, federal and non-governmental organizations, including representatives from 25 state agencies and various emergency response organizations, participated in a tabletop exercise designed to test our state's ability to respond following a series of significant earthquakes along the New Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones. The facilitator led, discussion based, exercise was built for executive level decision makers, including members of the Illinois General Assembly. This exercise walked participants through critical core capabilities including, the need for population related disaster services, public health and medical service needs, operational communication struggles and long-term recovery missions.

The scenario in this tabletop exercise was catastrophic and our proposed response capabilities were eye-

opening. This three-day exercise presented agencies an opportunity to test, evaluate and validate existing emergency response plans, while presenting opportunities for growth, improvement and future collaboration. Additional meetings and workshops are planned as a result of the exercise activities, which will include action development and resource gap analysis.



**A big thanks to Representative Kathleen Willis, chair of the Illinois Fire Caucus, for her participation in Seismic Succor.**



**Brigadier General Michael Glisson explains Illinois National Guard capabilities during one of Seismic Succor.**



**A team from MABAS Illinois discusses hypothetical operational and staffing concerns during Seismic Succor.**

## Grant Deadlines

### Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA)

Opening Date for Applications: October 1, 2018

Applications Due: December 18, 2018

### Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)

Opening Date for Applications: October 1, 2018

Applications Due: December 18, 2018

For additional information, contact Sam Al-Basha, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at [sam.m.albasha@illinois.gov](mailto:sam.m.albasha@illinois.gov)



# IEMA Attends REP Program Annual Training, Exercise Planning Workshop

Three members of IEMA's Nuclear Safety Team recently attended an annual FEMA workshop in Chicago. In recent years, this annual workshop has proven to be critically important to the agency as it provides timely updates for the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program. The workshop featured sessions where best practices in all areas of REP were shared. Although the REP community is a fairly small group, this workshop provides an excellent opportunity to bring this group together and learn from each other.

The highlight of this year's workshop included a Tenacious Badger-Ingestion Pathway/ Federal Participation Seminar. This seminar provided a unique and beneficial opportunity to bring together federal, state, local and utility partners with broad and diverse experience. For Illinois, this meant sharing our vast experience as well as bringing back best practices to enhance our own REP program.

Finally, the teams assembled were tasked with developing an eight-year exercise schedule for all of the nuclear power plants in FEMA Region V. Illinois is home to six nuclear power plants, and our state represents 40-percent of FEMA Region V's exercises.



**Bill Conway, Ken Evans, and Jim Kolba pose with former IEMA Director, and now FEMA Region V Administrator, James Joseph at the FEMA Region V Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop in Chicago, Illinois.**

## Helping Kids Cope with Disaster

The FEMA Coping with Disaster page provides information on how to manage the emotional effects of disasters and has specific guidance for helping kids cope with disasters. One area of focus is techniques for recognizing risk factors. These factors are:

- Direct exposure to the disaster, such as evacuating, observing injuries or death in others, or personally experiencing physical or emotional trauma;
- Loss/grief caused by the death or serious injury of family or friends; and

Ongoing stress from the secondary effects of disaster, such as temporarily living elsewhere, loss of friends and social networks, loss of personal property, parental unemployment, and costs incurred during recovery to return the family to pre-disaster life and living conditions.



### American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Offers Guidance for Helping Children Cope with Disasters

The AAP is preparing pediatricians—and all adults in positions that support children—to help children psychologically cope with crises and disasters. The AAP provides information on the following topics: the importance of basic services and timely triage and referral; psychological first aid; helping children understand and adjust to loss; supporting pediatricians; and much more.

#### Coping After Disasters Activity Book

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers an activity book, "Coping After a Disaster," for parents and educators to use to better communicate with children about coping mechanisms in the wake of a disaster. The CDC encourages adults to use this activity book in schools, communities, and within families to help children talk about their feelings after a disaster and to learn positive ways to express their emotions in uncertain times.



# Decommissioning Zion

The once highly recognizable green-capped towers of the former Zion nuclear power facility are now only a memory. Where the 20-story reactor containment buildings once stood, there are now piles of rubble. Zion Solutions began decommissioning the Lake County facility in September 2010. Although most of the visible work will be completed by March, the process will likely continue through late 2019 when Zion Solutions will transfer the facility license back to Exelon for storage of the spent nuclear fuel at the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Island.

IEMA has been onsite frequently during all phases of decommissioning and has maintained periodic

environmental monitoring and sampling, as well as the continuously operating Gamma Detection Network. IEMA worked closely with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) during final status survey work and evaluated NRC's confirmatory sampling activities in numerous phases, as well provided comments on several NRC submittals for the project. Going forward, IEMA will continue to monitor the site through the Gamma Detection Network and passive environmental monitoring for as long as fuel is stored at the site.



**February 28, 2012**



**February 26, 2016**



**October 16, 2018**



**November 14, 2018**

### Illinois Business Emergency Operations Center

Communication and coordination between the public and private sector is critical during response and recovery efforts before, during and after disasters. In order for Illinois to better respond to its citizens in such events, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) established a Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC). The BEOC has undergone a variety of enhancements since its establishment in 2011, including two-way information sharing, joint planning and most importantly, integration into the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

#### Origin

In 2010, FEMA advocated for states to establish Business Emergency Operations Centers (BEOCs) as an operative arm to homeland security/emergency management public-private sector partnering. There was no definitive prototype to follow and a blueprint “foundation of things” for BEOCs did not exist. States contemplating a center researched existing BEOC methodologies. As structures came to fruition, they served as models for startup states to hybridize a concept of operations tailored for its individual partnership environment.

IEMA began examining the fundamentals of the few existing BEOCs in the country. Illinois’ center was constructed based on our existing public-private partnership stakeholder expectations, recommendations and operational prerequisites. Pioneered policies and procedures, as well as opportunities for cooperation, interconnection and coordination for joint responses to disasters, proved essential for trusted partnering and information sharing. Our concept of operations has continued to adapt and evolve over time to build common denominators between the state and private industry. The BEOC serves as Illinois’ authoritative center for businesses and associations to convene with state agencies and share situational awareness and a common operating picture for coordinated

response and recovery actions during disasters. And now there’s a lot more!

#### Moving Forward

Today, the BEOC has adopted a “This is Us” brand to signify a solidarity of noteworthy changes in collaborative preparedness, response, recovery, and planning activities. It is no longer just about integration into the government emergency management cycle; rather, collectively it has synthesized into real world business continuity and emergency management realms. In Illinois, the partnership continues to explore new opportunities and ways to strengthen its response and recovery efforts for the citizens of Illinois. Join us!

#### What’s New

- The BEOC has a home within the SEOC.
- Navigates through the public-private sector operational issues that arise when disasters strike.
- The business/infrastructure “seat” at the SEOC table.
- Coordinates response and recovery activities through shared, prioritized objectives.
- Private Sector Annex included in the updated, statewide Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP), with appendix to address transport, entry and return (TEaR) response issues.
- Trial task force initiative for critical infrastructure and state agencies to partner for joint response to “clear, enter and repair” areas affected by disaster through shared prioritized objectives.
- Semi-annual cross-sector infrastructure shared objective forums.

#### What Continues

- Physical, virtual and/or business incident unified command responses during activations.

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- Business-to-business conduit during activations.
- Joint planning, preparedness, exercises/workshops and general inquiries during static times.
- Site visits at partner facilities as opportunities to realize their emergency and continuity of business planning for disasters.
- Outreach for mission advancement and membership growth.

### What these new enhancements mean for our public sector partners

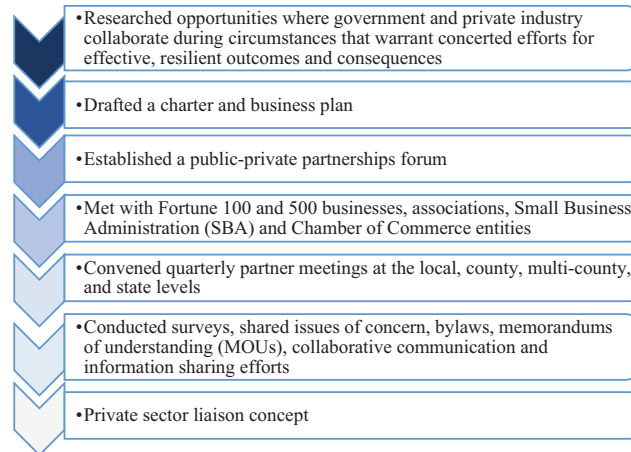
- A shared common operating picture and situational awareness with all partners.
- Triaged coordination of private sector resources to impacted areas.

- Coordinated, staging areas for private sector resources/donations.
- A clearinghouse to avoid duplication of efforts or restoration at evacuated sites during disasters.
- Opportunities to partner with businesses before, during and after disasters.
- BEOC as a coordinating focal point during response.
- Coordination and information sharing with state BEOCs.
- FEMA Region V External Affairs interactions.
- National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBOEC)/National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) interactions.

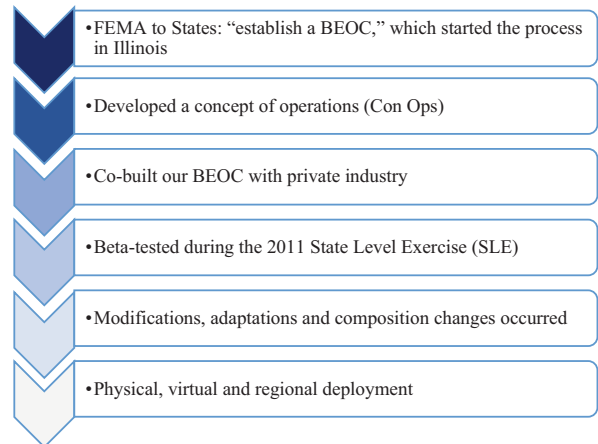
### Illinois' Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC)

The BEOC serves as Illinois' authoritative center for businesses and associations to convene with the BEOC team to share situational awareness and a common operating picture for coordinated response and recovery actions during disasters and for inquiries during static times.

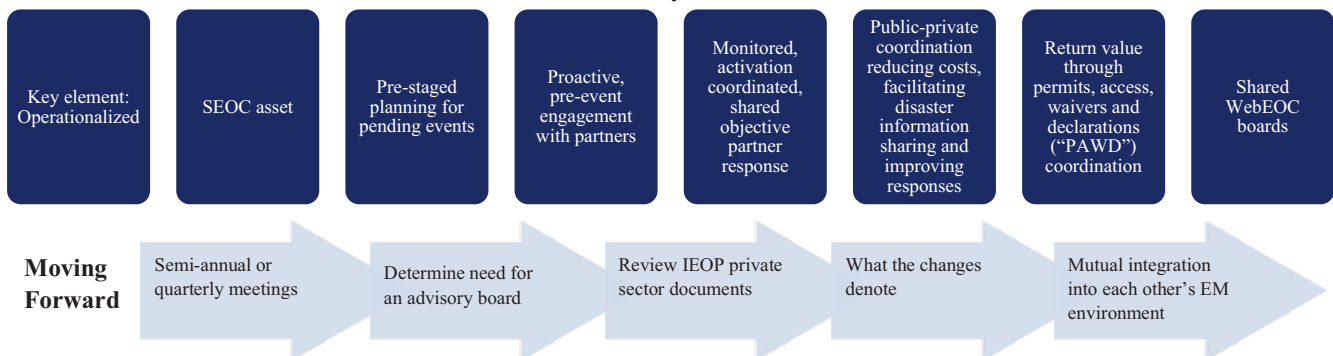
#### 2007



#### 2011



### This is Us Today: The BEOC in 2018



# December 2018 Training Schedule

## Incident Command 400 (ICS 400)

**Location:** Crossroads, Mt. Vernon, Illinois

**Date:** December 4-5, 2019

**Course Description:** This course provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System(ICS). The target audience includes all individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents. This course expands upon information covered in ICS 100 and 200 courses. (Both are pre-requisites for ICS 300.) The course also allows those identified personnel, including public health personnel, to comply with ICS level 300 training. This is a requirement for those jurisdictions that choose to comply with the National Incident Management System(NIMS) to ensure they continue receiving their federal preparedness funding grants. We are recommending that jurisdictions identify middle management who are going to be acting in the role of incident commander or section chief during an event to take the IS 300 course.

**Registration:**

<https://public.iema.state.il.us/iema/Training/OnlineReg/classes.asp>

## AWR 331 Winter Weather Hazards: Science & Preparedness

**Location:** Effingham County Emergency Operations Center, Effingham, Illinois

**Date:** December 6, 2019

**Course Description:** This course will prepare participants to understand the basics of winter weather science, the winter weather forecasting process, how winter weather forecasts are communicated, and the fundamentals of winter weather safety and preparedness. Since winter storms can strike every state in the United States, it is important that every community be ready for the hazards associated with them. This awareness-level course will fulfill the goals of the “whole community” approach to emergency management by reaching a broad sector of the community. Multiple core capabilities will be

addressed, with particular emphasis on “public information and warning” and “threats and hazard identification.” Participants who represent sectors such as mass care services, health and social services, operational communications, critical transportation, and planning would further expand the discussions in.

**Registration:** [batesa@hawaii.edu](mailto:batesa@hawaii.edu)

## Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

**Location:** The Pavilion, Marion, Illinois

**Date:** December 19-20, 2019

**Course Description:** This two-day course provides a basic overview of the HSEEP exercise process. The goal of the course is to provide professionals with a set of guiding principles for exercise programs, as well as a common approach to exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. Through the use of HSEEP guidance and processes, exercise program managers can develop, execute, and evaluate exercises that address the priorities established by their organization’s leaders.

**Registration:**

<https://public.iema.state.il.us/iema/Training/OnlineReg/classes.asp>



# Mt. Vernon, Jefferson County Recognized as StormReady

The City of Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County have seen their share of severe weather. Snow storms, tornadoes and flooding events have continually tested the resiliency of emergency workers, first responders and volunteers. Through the lessons learned these communities have bounced back stronger. On Tuesday, November 13th, the National Weather Service (NWS) Paducah held a special ceremony to recognize these southern Illinois communities as StormReady.



StormReady is a voluntary program that helps communities with the communications and safety skills needed to save lives and property – before, during and after a weather-related event. The program encourages communities to improve their hazardous weather operations by:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public;

- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally;
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

There are more than 30 counties in Illinois that are certified as StormReady communities, with even more distinctions made at the local, commercial and university level. To learn more about how your community can become StormReady, visit [www.weather.gov/stormready](http://www.weather.gov/stormready).

## SEOC Tour



Jenifer Johnson, IEMA General Counsel, provides a tour of the SEOC to the members of the latest class of Leadership Springfield. The training program provides leadership skills and in-depth exposure to critical issues affecting the Springfield area.



# Food Safety is the Secret Ingredient

Whether you are making a signature dish or trying something new this holiday season, the secret ingredient is always food safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 48 million people a year get sick from a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die.

To make sure foodborne illness is not on the menu at your holiday party, adhere to the four food safety steps.

Clean - wash hands, cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and countertops before and after preparing each food item.

Separate - keep raw eggs, meat, poultry, seafood, and their juices away from foods that will not be cooked.

Cook - use a food thermometer to make sure meat, poultry, and fish are fully cooked. Color is not a reliable indicator of doneness. If serving a turkey at your meal, remember to cook the bird to an internal temperature of 165 degrees.

Chill - divide leftovers into shallow containers and refrigerate them within two hours. Use leftovers within three to four days.



Everyone loves to graze during the holidays, but when perishable food sits at room temperature, it is resting in a temperature range where bacteria love to multiply. This range, between 40-140°F, is known as the 'danger zone.' A good rule of thumb is, make sure hot foods are hot (above 140°F) and cold foods are cold (below 40°F). If foods have been left out at room temperature for more than two hours, they should be discarded.

Safety precautions remain important this year, as the CDC continues to investigate two multistate outbreaks of Salmonella associated with poultry products. One is linked to raw turkey products and includes 164 cases in 35 states. Sixteen cases are reported among Illinois residents. Another involves multi-drug-resistant Salmonella infections tied to raw chicken products and includes 92 people in 29 states. Five cases are reported among Illinois residents.

Typical symptoms of foodborne illness include vomiting, diarrhea, and flu-like symptoms, which can start anywhere from hours to days after consuming contaminated food or drinks. Symptoms can last anywhere from a few hours to a few days. Those at risk of more severe and even life-threatening foodborne illness include older adults, infants, young children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems. If you become ill, especially with severe symptoms, or if you are at risk for more severe disease, seek care from a medical provider to ensure a proper diagnosis and appropriate management.

*(Information for this article was obtained by the Illinois Department of Public Health)*



# Prepare for the Holidays

With the holiday season in full swing, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is offering tips to help people stay safe now and into the new year. From decorating the tree to traveling to grandma's house with a sleigh full of new toys, be sure to take simple steps to keep your family safe.

## Holiday Decorating

Whether decorating for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or New Year's Eve, candles and strings of colored lights create a festive atmosphere but it's important to be careful when using them. Candles should never be left unattended, and placed far away from flammable materials. Candles should also be placed on stable furniture in fire-safe holders that will catch dripping wax. Holiday lights and electrical decorations should bear the name of an independent testing lab to prove they were safety tested.

## Winter Heating

While the stockings are hung by the chimney with care, be sure that your fireplace is ready for the winter heating season. Chimneys, fireplaces and wood and coal stoves should be regularly inspected and cleaned when necessary. Additionally, furnaces should be checked every year by professionals to ensure mechanical parts are functioning properly and that nothing is blocking the flue. Malfunctioning furnaces increase both the fire and carbon monoxide risks.

Under Illinois law, homes should be equipped with working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of each sleeping area. The detectors should be tested monthly to ensure they're functioning and the batteries are still good. Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or attached garage because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Preparedness Gift Ideas

While you are out shopping this holiday season, consider gifts that can help friends and family stay safe during all types of hazards and emergencies.

"Disasters can happen at any time and often with little to no warning," said Acting IEMA Director William Robertson. "Safety gifts are not only practical but they provide the gift-giver peace of mind knowing your loved one will be safe during an emergency."



### Preparedness gift ideas include:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather alert radio with battery backup, a tone-alert feature and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology. In addition to alerting for weather warnings, these radios also broadcast warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards, including natural, environmental and public safety hazards, such as earthquakes, chemical spills and AMBER alerts.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- First aid kit with sterile bandages and gauze pads in assorted sizes; antiseptic; latex gloves; tweezers; scissors; soap and moistened towelettes; and thermometer.
- Home emergency preparedness kit stocked with a three-day supply of bottled water and non-perishable food; battery-powered radio, weather radio and flashlights with extra batteries; first aid kit; shut-off wrench (to turn off household gas and water); manual can opener; and fire extinguisher.
- Vehicle emergency preparedness kit stocked with a flashlight with extra batteries; first aid kit; water and non-perishable snacks; blankets; windshield scraper and brush; booster cables; sack of sand or kitty litter; tool kit; and shovel. The items can be packed in a backpack or rubber tub.

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## Holiday Travel

When traveling over the river and through the woods, whether by car, train or plane, be sure to utilize smart travel tips.

If traveling by car, remember to pack an emergency supply kit with essentials for all your passengers. Fill out an emergency communications plan and let your in case of emergency (ICE) contact know your plan. Also, before you hit the road, check local road conditions and avoid traveling during winter storms.

If traveling by plane for the holidays, be sure to review the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) security screening tips. When packing for your flights, consider a small emergency kit that includes a flashlight and spare USB power bank.

IEMA will be posting holiday safety tips throughout December on the Ready Illinois Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/ReadyIllinois](http://www.Facebook.com/ReadyIllinois)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/ReadyIllinois](http://twitter.com/ReadyIllinois)) pages. Additional information on emergency preparedness is available on the Ready Illinois website at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov).



## Cyber Shopping Security Tips

- Do your online shopping at home, and make sure your home wireless network is protected.
- Don't share personal information over non-secure wireless networks.
- During the holidays, scammers may send fake emails that are too good to be true. Don't click on links!
- Set strong passwords and change your password often.



**Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:**  
**<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.**



**State of Illinois**  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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